# Councilmember LETO NANCY PYLETO February Newsletter

Dear Resident,

2009 promises to be an exciting year in which both our city and country face the monumental task of rebuilding our economy and balancing the budget. While the financial climate poses a great challenge, I have no doubt that innovative ideas will emerge and we will be pressed to discover creative solutions that will ultimately make us stronger.

February marks the second month of my second term on the City Council. Over the next four years, I will be honored to serve once again as your representative and together we will improve the quality of life in District 10. San Jose is a wonderful place to live and the region is a powerhouse for high technology; still there are areas where we should invest and grow our city. During my second term, I will focus on five priority areas:

- 1. Making San Jose an economically self sustainable city The city has cut \$50 million from the budget over the last four years in order to bring spending in line with revenue. However, due to ongoing spending commitments and a reduction in sales and property tax revenues due to the global financial crisis, the city must balance an estimated \$65 million dollar budget deficit this year alone. While it is always important to identify waste and increase efficiency, we must also look at ways to improve our economy so that residents have access to good jobs, small businesses grow and the city's tax base increases. Click here for more information.
- 2. <u>Making San Jose a force for youth -</u> While San Jose has a very strong school system and a low crime rate compared to other large cities, some youth still fall through the cracks and are unprepared to succeed in life. By increasing recreation opportunities for youth, utilizing the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and engaging the business community, San Jose can help every young person thrive. Recognizing the contributions of youth is essential to encouraging positive development. Last December, the Council awarded the Leland Robotics Team with a commendation.
- 3. <u>Establish an international reputation for the City of San Jose -</u> San Jose is not well known across the country or internationally. Increasing our name recognition will boost our economy, improve our airport and increase the quality of life in our city.



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Councilmembers Pyle, Herrera, Oliverio, Chu and Kalra are sworn in at the City Council

- 4. <u>Create an environmentally sustainable City -</u> Global warming and environmental degradation are urgent problems facing our planet. By implementing the Mayor's Green Vision, San Jose can become economically vibrant while protecting the environment. <u>Click here</u> for more information.
- 5. Develop a strong macro and micro plan for emergency preparation California has more than a 99% chance of having a magnitude 6.7 or larger earthquake within the next 30 years. The City of San Jose is widely regarded as a leader in disaster preparation, but no government has the resources to be able to care for all citizens immediately following a catastrophe. San Jose needs to do a much better job of working with citizens, families and neighborhoods to help them prepare for a disaster so that they can care for themselves until help arrives. Click here for additional information.

2009 also brings many changes to the City Council composition and responsibilities. Most notably, we are pleased to welcome two new Councilmembers to the dais. Ash Kalra has won a seat representing District 2 and Rose Herrera has been elected to represent Council District 8. Additionally our colleague Judy Chirco has been appointed the new Vice Mayor.

I am pleased to join the Rules and Open Government Committee in 2009 in addition to continuing service as: Chair of the Community and Economic Development, Liaison to the Civil Service Commission, the Disability Advisory Commission, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Member of the Santa Clara County Emergency Preparedness Council, Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Director on the Santa Clara County VTA Board, Director on the VTA Congestion Management Program & Planning Committee.

My best to all,

Nancy Pyle

Councilmember, District Ten

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#### Meeting



Leland Robotics Team demonstrate robot at City Hall

#### Contact Us

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District 10 Staff

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Linda Alexander Executive Assistant/Scheduler

Stephanie Holm Policy Analyst

Nitila Patel Council Assistant

Laura Cowan Council Assistant

**City Wide Phone List** 

#### **Citywide Update**

#### February City Council Meeting Schedule ---

February 3rd, 1:30 pm

February 10th, 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Councilmember Pyle will present a commendation to the Almaden Mustang's, a Pop Warner Pee Wee football team that won the 2008 national championship

February 24th, 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Agendas are available online at <a href="www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/agenda.asp">www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/agenda.asp</a></a>Residents are able to view Council meetings live online or on Comcast Cable Channel 26. Archive videos are also available online.

#### State Budget Update ---

As we are all aware, these economic times are tough not just for individuals but for cities, states and the Nation as a whole. In an effort to provide you with current information on the California State Budget, the City's Representative in Sacramento, Roxanne Miller, has information available at <a href="http://sanjose.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\_id=199">http://sanjose.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\_id=199</a>

#### **Employment Opportunities Available for Census 2010 ---**

In the next few months, the U.S. Census Bureau will hire 600 people to work locally as census workers for the 2010 Census. Positions include Listers, Crew Leaders, Crew Leaders Assistants and Field Operations Supervisors. Basic qualification for applicants include U.S. residency, 18 years of age, a valid social security number and passage of the background check. Candidates will also be required to take a test. Compensation ranges between \$22-\$25/hour, depending on the position and candidate's experience. For a sample test or for more information, please visit <a href="www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a>. To apply or schedule testing, call 1-866-861-2010.

## WINTER SPARE AIR



CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN. SpareTheAir.org or 1-877-4-NO BURN

#### Check Before You Burn ---

The City's Environmental Services website <a href="www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/">www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/</a> is now an available resource for Winter Spare the Air Alerts. It is currently illegal to burn wood when a Winter Spare the Air Alert is in effect from noon of that day until noon of the following day. Violators receive a warning for their first violation, followed by fines upwards of \$1,000 dollars. For more information on wood-burning and Regulation 6, Rule 3, visit the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) website at

Call Center-535-3500 Police Non-Emergency Anti-Graffiti/Litter-277-3208 Animal Care-578-729 City Arborist-277-276 Crime Prevention-277-4133 Crime Stoppers-947-STOP Drug Hotline -971-DRUG DOT -277-4373 Environmental Services-535-8550 Hazardous Materials-Housing -535-3860 Neighborhood Dev. Ctr-723-4114 Parking Enforcement-534-2900 Vehicle Abatement-277-5305



Gang Hotline -

293-4264

#### www.baaqmd.gov/enf/woodsmoke/woodsmoke\_portal.htm.

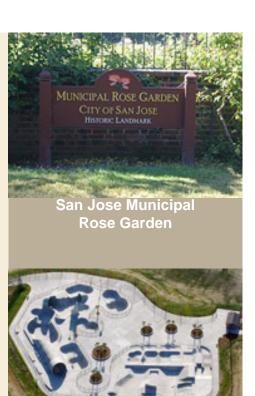
For more information on this or City energy programs, contact Mary Tucker at (408) 975-2581.

#### Municipal Rose Garden Volunteer Event ---

On January 10, over 250 volunteers participated in the annual pruning of the Municipal Rose Garden by pruning 2700 rose bushes. Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) staff, in collaboration with the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden, provided training and demonstrations on proper rose pruning techniques. This successful pruning event is part of the ongoing efforts between PRNS and the Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden to produce healthy, vibrant roses at the Municipal Rose Garden. The next volunteer event will occur on Saturday May 2nd, and will include a ceremony to acknowledge the hard work of the staff and volunteers and to celebrate the park's ascension from its probationary status as an All American Rose Selection Demonstration Garden to an All American Rose Selection Test Garden. For more information, contact Jeff Gomez at (408) 277-5985.

### Lake Cunningham Skate Park to be Featured on Travel Channel ---

Lake Cunningham Skate Park, California's largest skate park, will be featured on the Travel Channel's Extreme program expected to air in March 2009. The Skate Park will be included in a feature on extreme fun and will include local skaters. Lake Cunningham was chosen for its challenging course and unique design. The 68,000-square-foot facility is home to the world's largest and longest full-pipe, the largest cradle in America and the world's tallest vertical wall. The Skate Park, which opened in April 2008, was designed by world class skate park designer, Zach Wormhoudt and has hosted skating legend Tony Hawk and others. Lake Cunningham has become a major draw for skateboard enthusiasts from around the world. For more information, contact Viet Nguyen at (408) 794-7576.







#### **D-10 Announcements, Highlights and Events**

#### District 10's Second Annual Senior Walk ---

On Wednesday, February 11th, I am hosting my second annual Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Resource Fair for Seniors. This event will begin at 8:30am in the Sears courtyard of the Westfield Oakridge Mall located at 925 Blossom Hill Road in San Jose. Registration and a free healthy breakfast will take place from 8:30am to 9:00am. A resource fair focused on tips for healthy seniors as well as a guided walk around the mall with senior specific instructional exercise stations will take place between 9:00am and 10:30am. A raffle featuring a variety of prizes will take place between 10:30am and 11:00am following the walk. This is an event no senior should miss. I hope to see you there!

#### Cab Discounts for Seniors ---

It has come to my attention that the 15% discount on cab fares to seniors is not commonly known. Every cab company in the City of San Jose is required to give senior citizens a 15% discount on their cab fares. Unfortunately, some cabs do not offer the discount unless asked about it. The San Jose Senior Commission would like to require cab drivers to post information about the discount in their cabs. I appreciate the San Jose Senior Commission looking into this issue.

#### Welcome to new staff member Laura Cowan! ---

Laura is very familiar with the bay area as she has spent her entire life here in Silicon Valley. Laura earned her Bachelor's of Science in Political Science from Santa Clara University in 2008. Before joining the District 10 Office, she completed internships in Council District 1 and FairVote - The Center for Voting and Democracy in Washington DC. Laura is interested in all aspects of local government and is a welcome addition to our District 10 team!

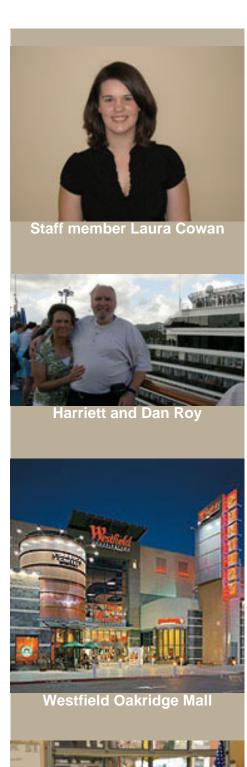
She will serve as a liaison to neighborhood associations, senior and youth organizations in addition to organizing community events, assisting constituents and planning ceremonial council items.

#### Where in the World are the Roys? ---

Dan and Harriett Roy are a retired couple who have been donating their time as docents to San Jose City Hall for years. Retiring has not slowed down the Roy's and they do a great deal for the city on a daily basis. Now, Dan and Harriett are finally taking a much deserved break. In mid-January they started on a 120-day voyage around the world on the Tahitian Princess! In their first month of the voyage they will travel to Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Tahiti, the Cook Islands, New Zealand, Australia and New Guinea! Over the next few months we will be keeping tabs on Dan and Harriett and how updates of their journey. For more frequent updates, check out <a href="http://travelpod.com/z/danharriet/1/1229282280">http://travelpod.com/z/danharriet/1/1229282280</a>

#### Linda Alexander, District 10 Staff, attended Obama's Inauguration ---

Our own Linda Alexander, District 10 Staff, attended Obama's Inauguration Address in Washington, DC in January! Linda's husband Tony is a political director for United Food and Commercial Workers and was a California Delegate at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Linda and Tony have two children, Jordan, 13 and Ashleigh, 8 who also greatly enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the inaugural events. The family attended the Presidential Inaugural Ball-Western States at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, which President Obama and the First Lady also attended. Linda wore a gown found here in San Jose at the Designer's Corner on Winchester. The entire Alexander family had a wonderful time but we are happy to have Linda back.





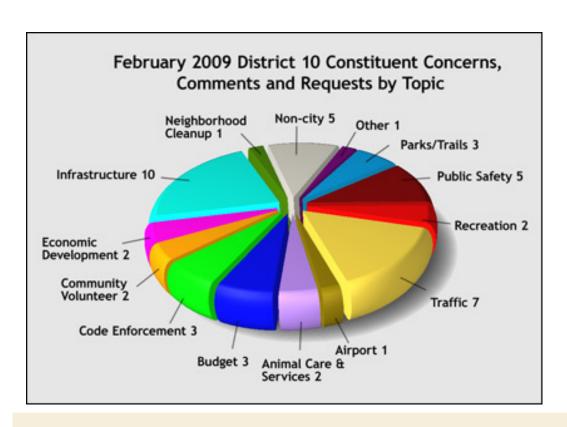
Councilmember Pyle speaks at the Fire Station #12 Grand Opening

#### Fire Stations 12 and 17 are now open ---

Congratulations to the San Jose Fire Department for opening two Fire Stations! Both Fire Station #12, located at 5912 Calero Avenue near Cahalan Avenue, and Fire Station #17, located at 5170 Coniston Way near Blossom Hill Road began construction in May of 2007 and were completed in November 2008.

Station #12 is 6,326 square feet and cost \$5,524,000 and Station #17 is 6,471 square feet and cost \$5,051,000. Both include an emergency generator and fuel convault, decontamination room, turnout storage room, exercise room, offices and dormitories with restrooms that meet the privacy requirements.

Grand openings were held for both stations. Station #17 had its opening ceremony on December 4th and station #12 had its ceremony on December 19th. Both ceremonies were a huge success. These facilities have been in the works for quite awhile and I am thrilled to have them finished and have our very deserving Fire Fighters in their new stations. Thank you to the San Jose Fire Department for making our lives safer.





#### Congratulations to Roger and Elenore Grossenbacher ---

Roger and Elenore's property located at 5744 Via Monte Drive has been selected as the recipient of my Outstanding Property Award! Each quarter, I will select an outstanding property from the Hoffman Via Monte SNI community for recognition as a way of honoring property owners who put in extra time and financial resources to maintain their building in a high quality way. Well maintained buildings such as theirs uplift the neighborhood and provide desirable, affordable housing.



Fire Station 12



Pioneer Jazz Band Plays at the Fire Station #17 Grand Opening



Fire Fighter plays bag pipes at the Fire Station #17 Grand Opening



5744 Via Monte Drive

District 10 volunteers recognized at annual State of the City Breakfast --Eight district 10 residents: David Bushman, James Fowler, Alex Fraser, Yvette
Galindo, Scarlett Lam, Don Muger, Rebecca Wang and Yvonne Wong were
honored by the Mayor and Council for their service to the San Jose Prepared!
program. Working with the Office of Emergency Services, these volunteers
train others to teach life-saving methods and spread disaster-preparedness
throughout the community. The Training classes are taught in English,
Spanish, Vietnamese, and soon they will also be taught in Mandarin.

#### Friends of the Almaden Library ---

Congratulations to the Friends of the Almaden Library who had great success with their final 2008 used book sale. This November 1st sale brought in the highest proceeds ever in the history of Almaden Friends book sales - \$3321! This accomplishment is especially notable during these difficult economic times. I would like to extend my congratulations and thanks to all involved in the Friends of the Almaden Library book sale.

#### Thank You for Your Holiday Spirit! ---

This holiday season, as our country faced such a devastating economic climate, I was proud to see so many members of the District 10 community working to help those less fortunate than themselves. For all the schools, churches, and other various organizations and individuals who donated their time, energy or belongings to help others get through the 2008 holiday season I am eternally grateful. This is the selflessness I love to see in District 10. Keep up the good work!

#### **Community Calendar**

#### **Almaden Senior Association Meeting**

Wednesday, February 4th: 9:45am – 11:00am Almaden Community Center; 6445 Camden Avenue www.almadenseniors.org/

#### **Youth Advisory Council Meeting (YAC)**

Wednesday, February 4th: 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Almaden Community Center; 6445 Camden Avenue
This group is open to all youth between the ages between the ages of 12 and
18 living in district 10. This group plans youth oriented events for themselves and other youth to enjoy.

#### Almaden Valley Community Association Meeting (AVCA)

Monday, February 9th: 7:00pm – 9:00pm Almaden Community Center; 6445 Camden Avenue www.avca-sj.org

#### **Martial Cottle Park Meeting**

Tuesday, February 10th: 6:30pm – 8:30pm Gunderson High School, Cafeteria

#### Westfield Oakridge Winter Walk and Resource Fair for Seniors

Wednesday, February 11: 8:30am – 11:00am Councilmember Nancy Pyle Hosts the Second Annual Westfield Oakridge



District 10 State of the City

Awardees



Almaden Library and Community Center



Councilmember Pyle meets with District 10 Boy Scout Troop 290



Left to right:
Pete Smith, Darlene Smith,
Jordan Alexander, Senator
Corbett Ronlind, Linda
Alexander

Winter Walk and Resource Fair for Seniors from 8:30 am to 11:00 am in the Sears Courtyard of the Westfield Oakridge Mall located at 925 Blossom Hill Road in San Jose. For more information please call the San Jose District 10 office at (408) 535-4910.

President's Day Observed: Monday, February 16

#### **Martial Cottle Park Meeting**

Tuesday, February 17th: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Gunderson High School, Library

#### **Youth Advisory Council Meeting (YAC)**

Wednesday, February 18th: 6:00pm – 7:30pm Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue

#### **Hoffman Via Monte Neighborhood Action Coalition Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, February 18th: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Hoffman Via Monte Neighborhood Center; 1180 Blossom Hill Road #2

www.strongneighborhoods.org/hoffman06.asp

#### Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association Meeting (STFNA)

Thursday, February 19th: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Southside Community Center; 5585 Cottle Rd at Blossom Hill

www.stfna.org/stf

#### **Family Movie Night**

Friday, February 20th: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue

#### **Leland Bridge Night**

Sunday, February 22nd: 5:00pm – 8:30pm Leland High School; 6677 Camden Avenue

http://lelandbridge.org/

"Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions. They understood that our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it entitle us to do as we please. Instead, they knew that our power grows through its prudent use; our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint."

- Inaugural Address, President Barack Obama

#### Ashleigh Alexander



Left to right: Tony Alexander, Congressman Mike Honda & Linda Alexander



February 2009 newsletter print version will be available here on 02-03-09